

**A NEW ANT PARASITE (HYMENOPTERA,
BRACONIDAE).**

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Only fragmentary information is available concerning the habits of species belonging to the rather anomalous braconid genus *Elasmosoma* Ruthe, but the few recorded observations suggest that all species are internal parasites of ants. Specimens are rare in most collections. Before the receipt of the long series upon which the following description is based the National Collection contained less than thirty specimens belonging to *Elasmosoma*, these being distributed among five species.

***Elasmosoma petulans*, n. sp.**

Runs to *vigilans* Cockerell in my key¹ and is very similar to that species. It may at once be distinguished, however, by the shorter inner calcarium of the hind tibia. This is definitely shorter than the metatarsus in *petulans*, whereas in *vigilans* it is clearly a little longer. Furthermore, the abdomen is somewhat longer and stouter in the new species than in *vigilans*, the dorsal impression of the hind coxa is much more sharply margined, and the clypeus is entirely black rather than mostly yellow.

Female.—Length about 2.5 mm. Head barely as wide as thorax; temples receding directly from the eyes, weakly convex; eyes enormous, strongly convergent below and nearly touching the mandibles; face narrower at clypeal foveae than long, finely transversely rugulose; clypeus more finely rugulose than face; frons coarsely granular; vertex and occiput transversely aciculate; ocellocular line less than twice as long as diameter of an ocellus; antenna not quite so long as thorax.

Mesoscutum and scutellum finely granular and thickly covered with appressed pubescence; propodeum completely rugose; mesopleuron and metapleuron finely granular and dull; angulation of basal vein a little above the middle; dorsal impression of hind coxa unusually deep and completely carinately margined; longer calcarium of hind tibia about three-fourths as long as metatarsus.

Abdomen as long as head and thorax combined; first tergite

¹ Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus. 61, Art. 15: 5, 1922.

as broad at apex as long; second and third tergites much broader than long, the second slightly longer than third; basal three tergites strongly coriaceous and dull, the others faintly sculptured and shining; hypopygium not nearly attaining apex of abdomen, compressed, weakly incised on apical margin, not angulate laterally.

Black; scape, pedicel, labrum, mandibles except teeth, palpi, and all legs entirely yellow; tegulae blackish; wings hyaline, costa and stigma brown; venter of abdomen piceous.

Type locality.—Jackson, Ohio.

Type.—United States National Museum No. 55665.

Described from fifty-one female specimens taken by L. G. Wesson, July 15, 1938, as they were hovering over a raiding column of *Formica sanguinea rubicunda* Emery. Some of the paratypes in Wesson's collection.

GEOCORIS ATRICOLOR FEEDING.

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A black big-eyed bug, *Geocoris atricolor* Montd., found among aphids in an infested pea field near Logan, was brought into the insectary where it was caged in a 4-dram shell vial with several pea aphids (*Macrosiphum pisi* Kalt.) of different ages. Activity of the specimen was observed under a wide-field microscope. Approximately 7 minutes after being placed in the vial, a second instar pea aphid nymph was quickly grasped by the *atricolor*, which used its front tibiae and tarsi to hold its small prey while it pierced the aphid with its feeding stylets at a point along the suture between the third and fourth segments of the abdomen. After such feeding insertion, the aphid was released by the predator's legs but was securely held, extended at the tip of the predator's rostrum. Feeding occurred in this manner for twenty-two minutes; the shriveled aphid body was discarded, most of the fluids having been removed.

Following a five-minute rest, a third instar pea aphid was seized in the same manner as the first. The labium of the predator was pushed against the abdomen of the prey, and soon the stylets were observed to have entered the aphid body and to be exploring the various areas within reach, even extending into the legs. The length of the stylets observed within the aphid body varied greatly,